WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 MAY/JUNE 1992

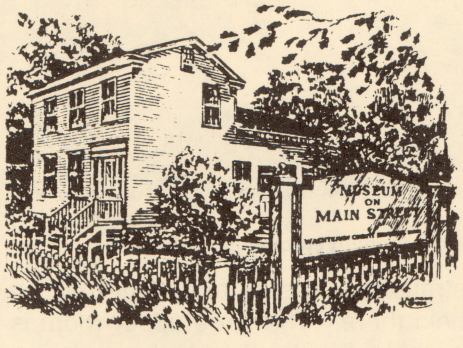
WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SUCCESSFUL GALA NETS $7,500 FOR WCHS MUSEUM; DRAWING OF HOUSE, COMPUTER GIVEN SOCIETY

The *County Goes Country* GALA at Bob Lyons' Country Store on April 24th was a huge success. Over 100 guests came to enjoy the auction, the door prize drawing, the refreshments from the Moveable Feast, AND the drawing for the raffle. Marjorie Pearson, a member in Ypsilanti and sister of Doris Milliman, Ypsilanti Historian, won the Grand Prize, a week's stay at the Homestead condominium donated by Gary and Liz Elling. After expenses, we netted more than $7,500 for the Museum Building Fund. Our thanks to all who participated and, especially, to the Ellings and Bob Lyons and his staff.

Second prize winners, Dick and Sally Greve, won a copper hearth pan, donated by Kitchen Port. Peg and Gene Fowler won a copy of *Washtenaw County: An Illustrated History* by Ruth Bordin, third prize.



On May 13th, the WCHS Annual Meeting potluck was held at the Macon Creek Mill, hosted by Karen and Joe O'Neal at the last of the Henry Ford mills. Members and guests inspected the progress of restoration at the Mill since last year's meeting there, and Anne Jackson strolled about as we dined, playing her violin. At the business meeting officers were elected for

(continued on page 3.)

KAREN'S KOLUMN

THANKS TO GALA HELPERS, FINGERLE; LYONS GIVES PRE-1913 LOCAL GLASS SLIDE PORTRAITS TO WCHS

Special thanks to all who had a part in making the Society's FUNdraiser *County Goes Country* such a great even-ing. It takes a lot of involvement from a lot of people to be so successful!

Photo by Karen O'Neal

Almost all eyes are on auctioneer Steve Gross at Gala.

Anne and Bill Benninghoff
Jan Bhavsar
Trudy Bulkley
Reeva Cranor
Louis Doll
Dick Dunn, Tammy, Avence and Lisa
Elizabeth Dusseau
Marty Evashevski
Liz and Gary Elling
Lois Foyle
Thelma Graves
Bets Hansen
Doug Kelley
John Leidy Shop
Shaw Livermore, Jr.

(continued on page 3.)

WCHS INDIAN VILLAGE BUS TOUR SET JUNE 13

From 1895 to 1925 or so,many of Detroit's most successful entrepreneurs built spacious homes in Indian Village, an area between East Jefferson and Mack Avenue, about half a mile from Belle Isle.

Architects Albert Kahn, Louis Kamper and the Smith-Hinchman & Grylls firm designed homes for the likes of Edsel Ford, Bernard Stroh and Hiram Walker II.

The neighborhood of about 350 homes was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and is today a City of Detroit and State of Michigan Historic District.

WCHS will tour some Indian Village homes and gardens by bus Saturday, June 13, with a trained tour guide aboard. Docents will be on hand in the homes to explain special features.

The tour will break for lunch at Sinbad's on the Detroit River. Tourgoers may choose one of four deluxe sandwiches (hamburger, turkey, breast of chicken or orange roughy) with coleslaw, French fries, tea, coffee, milk or pop and sherbert.

Sponsors suggest wearing comfortable walking shoes and layers—a sweater or jacket you can leave on the bus if it's warm.

Fee of $35.00 per person includes bus, tour ticket and lunch. The bus holds 47 passengers. Board bus at 8:15 a.m. at Maple Village Shopping Center lot near First of America Bank, return before 4 p.m.

For reservations and information call 662-9092.

OLD TOOLS EXHIBITED

We had a small exhibit of old tools April 26 at the dedication of the Cobblestone Farm barn. Thanks to Gary Elling, Joe O'Neal, Charles Stuart, and Gary Kuehnle who loaned them.

COBBLESTONE FARM VISITORS CENTER

LONG-AWAITED BARN DEDICATED APRIL 26

A young visitor to Ann Arbor's Cobblestone Farm a few years ago was disappointed. As far as he was concerned, it was no farm. There were no barns, no animals.

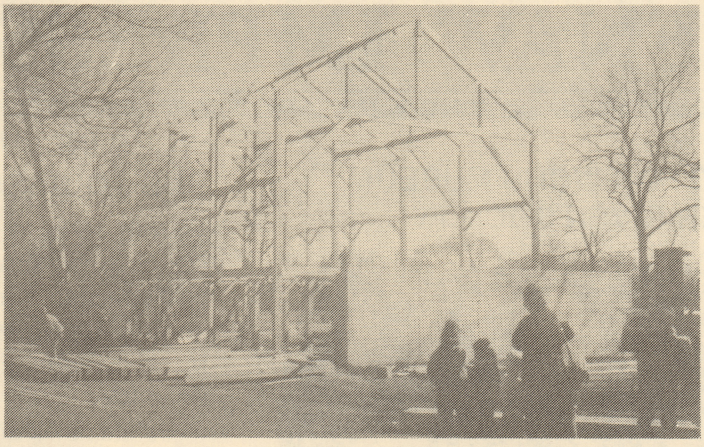


Photo by Alice Ziegler

Barn "raised." Timber framing erected in April 1988.

The outbuildings of what is now called Cobblestone Farm were gone when the City of Ann Arbor bought the Ticknor-Campbell property at 2781 Packard Road in the l970s and the Cobblestone Farm Association started restoring the cobblestone house built in 1844.

Seven barns and outbuildings were destroyed in a fire of unknown origin on July 24, l924, George Campbell, former owner, said. He had just filled the barns with hay.

As early as 1984 the city's Department of Parks and Recreation proposed building a barn at the site.

In April 1988 a barn raising was held to lift into place six "bents," or 10,000 pound, three-story oak beam frames which support the 40 by 70 foot structure. There are no nails in the framing. The beams are held together by wooden pegs or mortise and tenon joints, the way barns were built in the 19th century.

Instead of teams of horses and humans, however, a city crane lifted the heavy frames into place.

The long awaited building was officially opened Sunday, April 26, when Ann Arbor Mayor Liz Brater cut the ribbon at dedication ceremonies.

The disappointed young visitor might still be disappointed though. While intended to look like a 19th century barn on the outside , it is actually a visitors center on the inside.

Instead of stables, granaries and bays for hay and grain storage, it contains kitchen, restrooms, meeting room, space for office and gift shop and a large open space on the upper level with a loft above.

Craft classes, workshops, demonstrations and special events may be held there. The large upper room is suitable for dancing and receptions and will be available for rent.

The young visitor, however, could now find a few sheep, goats, chickens and ducks in a yard around a small real barn the city built behind the house.

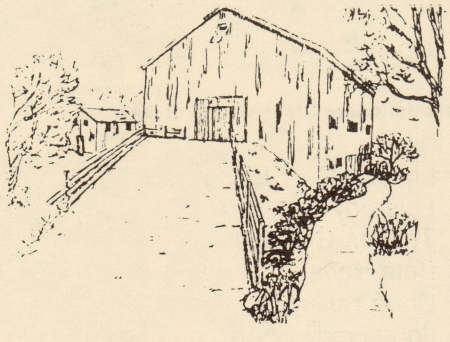
WCHS joined in celebrating the dedication in lieu of an April meeting. The Society displayed old hand tools and offered its museum shop items for sale.

Also, historian Louis W. Doll, a former Ann Arborite and native of Chelsea, was on hand to autograph copies of his new book, *Less Than Immortal*, a biography of Frank Porter Glazier of Chelsea.

Glazier was an important figure in county business and politics at the turn of the century. He rose to state treasurer, suffered financial reverses and served time in Jackson prison.

Ron Olson, director of the Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department, presided over the dedication ceremonies. Punch and cake were served.

The Cobblestone Farm Country Dancers, a 19th century folk dance demonstration group, initiated the dance floor, inviting the audience to join in quadrilles,contras and circle dances as live music drifted down from the loft.



Courtesy of Cobblestone Farm

VISITORS CENTER

The players were Betsy Beckerman (hammer dulcimer and banjo), Anne Jackson (fiddle),Tom Wall (guitar) and Mark Williams (bass).

HISTORY HAPPENINGS AROUND COUNTY

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Depot. Topic June 8 about Civil War Regiment from Chelsea.

Dexter Society: Heloise Dunstan's tinware collection at museum, 3443 Inverness. Open 1-3 p.m.Fridays and Saturdays. Liz Kleinschmidt's collection of Noah's arks display for Dexter days.

Manchester Society: Manchester Village, organized in 1867, is celebrating its 125th anniversary for 125 days, ending in a grand finale Saturday, July 18.

Milan Society: Flea market on Hack House lawn, 775 County Street, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 20. Information:439-2856.

Salem Society: Exhibit about nine former country schools at township hall 9a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, June 12 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 13. U-M Professor Ralph Williams, who once attended a one-room school, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Friday reception.

Webster Society: Annual potluck picnic, 6:30 p.m. Monday,June 8, at Kleinschmidt home, 5922 Webster Church Road. Other societies invited. Bring table service and dish to pass.

Ypsilanti Society: Yard sale Saturday, June 6, at museum. Meeting 2-4 p.m. Sunday, July 19, at museum, an ice cream social, open to public. Luncheon honoring volunteers June 18 at Ladies Literary Club.

Museum open 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Saturday, Sunday. Indian collection on display.

OLD STORE CATERS TO NOSTALGIA WITH 'SWAMPROOT,' PLUG TOBACCO, SARSAPARILLA, HIGH BUTTON SHOES

Would you believe, in 1992, a store that stocks celluloid collars, high button shoes, Bulldog bluing, "Swamproot," and Big John plug tobacco?

All these and much, much more are in Bob Lyons's wondrous old "general store," the site of WCHS's fund raising gala April 24.

Those attending could wander all around,including behind the counters, taking in the myriad products and brands of earlier days that Lyons has collected to feed his "antique addiction" and create a nostalgic oasis of yesteryear.

The things are not really for sale, of course, but Lyons graciously opens the store to various charitable groups such as WCHS for fund raising purposes. It's a special treat that makes fund raising fun for donors.

(WCHS earned about $7,500 from the fund raiser. See President Pauline Walters's column on page 1.)

Lyons said he didn't know yet that he wanted to make an old store in 1978 when he bought the wall cabinets from the old Fischer Pharmacy in downtown Ann Arbor when owner Dick Beissel had to get rid of them.

Next, he bought a big 16-foot beam counter and set it in front of the cabinets. That looks like an old store, he told himself, and that was the beginning of it.

The large counter has glass-front compartments displaying many kinds of dried beans and peas.

Over the years, he has added old scales, cash registers, coffee grinders, a sewing thread cabinet and a shoelace "service station" display. There are many colorful advertising signs and models such as a toy size cast iron cook stove. There is a "store cheese" under a dome and a checkerboard set up ready for play

It seems impossible, in one visit, to take in all the products and brands assembled there.

Anyone looking for a celluloid collar could choose from an assortment of shapes and sizes, not just one. The same is true of glass globes for kerosene lamps, straw "boater" hats and many other items, including high button shoes for the whole family, children included.

There is an amazing variety of products and brands. For cleaning chores you can find Gold Dust, Jap Rose soap, Farm Yard high test lye and Haskins pumice soap.

Coffee choices include Hotel Astor, Morning Sip, Beechnut and Breakfast Cheer Dripco in red metal cans. Tea choices include Lyons and College Girl.

There are many forgotten brands and firms, but occasionally there is one still more or less familiar.

Among these are Arm and Hammer baking soda, Morton's Ivory salt, Borden's Baby Brand condensed milk, Old Dutch Cleanser, Mother's crushed oats, Heinz ketchup, Jolly Time popcorn, Colgate's ribbon dental cream and Wrigley's juicy fruit gum.

Unfamiliar brands include Seafoam baking powder, Wilbur's cocoa, Parker's vanilla, My Choice and Wigwam canned salmon, Los Angeles Valley canned apricots, Quail brand seeded raisins, Uneeda biscuits, Adam's chewing gum and Sen Sen for fresh breath.

You can find Dandelion brand butter color for your churning, Waterman's ink, Tanglefoot fly spray, Stanley's crow repellent, White Wings shoe polish, "Fixem for the Feet" and Dalton's sarsaparilla (called a blood purifier and nerve tonic). There is also mustard and goose grease.

There is a molasses candy that claims a few pieces after meals aids digestion.

There is Nut Bromose, a diet food from Battle Creek Food Company, patented September 15, 1896, whose sales pitch is that it is"one of the most nourishing and fattening of foods." For all those skinny Minnies who can't seem to put on an ounce, we presume.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1.)

1992-93. The results are listed on page 4.

Our 1991-92 season will top off with the annual June Tour. This year, vice president, Donald C. Smith, MD, has arranged a bus tour to the Indian Village area in Detroit.. See the full description elsewhere in this newsletter. For reservations or more information, call 662-9092.

Isn't the drawing of our Museum wonderful? THAT is what MoMS will look like in the VERY NEAR future. Michael Klement donated the drawing to us. Thank you, Michael, we will make good use of your marvelous work.

The May, 1992, issue of the Impressions was history-making. Thomas Cross, MD donated an IBM computer to the Historical Society, and it has been installed at the home of our *Impressions* editor, Alice Ziegler, where she is in the process of mastering the joy of computerizing her copy for our newsletter. Alice now gives the typesetter a 3.5 inch disk rather than pages and pages of typewritten copy.

Brava, Alice, soon you'll wonder how you ever survived without it!

Do have a good summer, we will see you in September.

Pauline V. Walters, 662-9092

KAREN'S KOLUMN

(Continued from page 1.)

Nancy Major
Bob Lyons
Nancy McKinney
Liz McLeary
Barbara Mueller
Dave Pollock
Pat Pooley
June Rusten
Schmidt's Antiques
Pam Tabbaa
Marge Hepburn
Maya Savarino
Don and Jean Smith
Jan Tupper
Pauline Walters
Esther Warzynski
Susan Wineberg
Alice Ziegler
Woman's National Farm and Garden Association
The Old West Side House Tour

And everyone who attended, enjoyed, bid, signed the quilt or sent a contribution!

At the party, Bob Lyons, with the assistance of Karl Lagler, presented to the Society a box of 94 glass slides, portraits taken before 1913 by Rentschler, an Ann Arbor photographer.

Karl has cataloged the slides. It would be nice to find a way to print them so as to have a convenient record of what we have. We will be working on this.

Fingerle Lumber Company has helped us with a nice contribution of materials for our picket fence, signs, railings and lattice that we will be working on next at the Museum on Main Street.

We are getting close to being ready for a coat of paint on the exterior. Parking lot fences are needed, then—finally!—we can finish up our landscaping. The corner at 500 North Main will be transformed!

Karen O'Neal, 665-2242

SIGN WCHS QUILT FOR PLACE IN HISTORY

Photo by Karen O'Neal

Elizabeth Dusseau and Susan Hickey with signature quilt.

For $20 you can sign a quilt, pieced and donated to us by the Faculty Women's Club Quilting Section. Once all the signatures have been gathered, it will be quilted,finished and hung in the Museum on Main Street.

Please call 662-9092 if you would like to record your name in history. We are grateful to Susan Hickey for organizing this project for us.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T FLOSS

"Placarded in the post-office of a Vermont village is the following notice: My wife, Mary Miller, having deceived me in regard to her age before marriage, claiming to be 26 only when she was 32, with teeth badly decayed, while I am not 22 with perfectly sound teeth, therefore I will pay no debts of her contracting.

L.H. Church (X—his mark)"

Harper's Bazar, New York, January 6,1872.

WCHS COLLECTS 56% OF POINTS FOR VCR

Readers turned in 1,207 more points for a new total of 9,350 or more than 56 percent of those needed for WCHS to earn a video cassette recorder by collecting points when they eat at Knapp's Restaurants.

Anyone who eats at any Knapp's Restaurant can get a yellow points slip from the cashier each time with one point for each dollar spent.

Please keep collecting points and give or send to: Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. For more information: 663-8826.

WCHS OFFICERS

President	Pauline V. Walters
Vice President	Mary M. Culver
Corresponding Secretary	Louisa Pieper
Recording Secretary	Judy Chrisman
Treasurer	Patricia W. Creal

Directors: Terms to expire 1993

Nancy T. McKinney
Patricia K. Austin

Directors: Terms to expire 1995

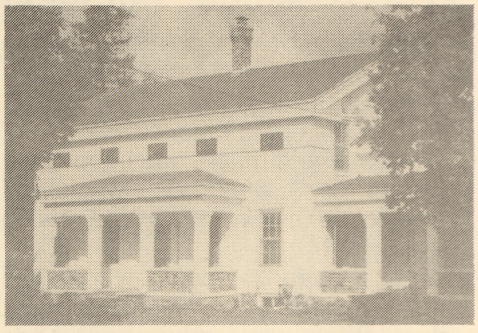
Janice Bhavsar
Olive (Bets) Hansen
Arlene Schmid
Esther Warzynski

GARDEN WALK JUNE 6

The Ann Arbor Farm and Garden Association Garden Walk will be Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets $8 each, two for $15. Bus ride available, with advance reservation, $15 for bus and ticket. Information: 663-2339.

WCHS should support this event because last year we received the proceeds to landscape the museum. This year funds raised will go to Nichols Arboretum.

ADOBE SHOWHOUSE



Saline Historical Society

ADOBE, MICHIGAN STYLE

One of Washtenaw's few remaining adobe brick or "mud" Greek Revival farm houses, built by pioneer builder Stephen Mills, will be decked out by ten local decorators for "Designer's Showhouse '92"June 13-21, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.

Proceeds will benefit Saline Historical Society's Depot-Livery Local History Center. The house is at 1880 Textile Road, east of Maple. Ticket information: 429-9621.

Mills, active 1836-1865, is said also to have built Ann Arbor's 1844 Cobblestone Farm house.

COBBLESTONE EVENTS

Living History Days, with 1840s era pioneer activities, are held on second Sundays at Ann Arbor's Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Road. The house is open to tour 1-4 p.m.Thursday-Sunday.

Arts and crafts fair June 6-7 at farm. Hours 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Address: 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Mailing: Pauline Walters, 662-9092
Published September-May, except December.
WCHS Office: (313) 662-9092

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INDIAN VILLAGE BUS TOUR

8:15 A.M. Saturday
June 13, 1992

Board bus at Maple Village Shopping Center near First of America Bank

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2200 Fuller Road, 1202 B
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-2307

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 96
Ann Arbor, MI

WCHS membership pd through 1992

Marjorie Pearson and DORIS Milliman
1116 Grant Street
Ypsilanti MI 48197